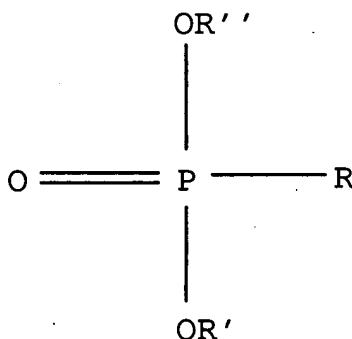


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-8: (Cancelled)

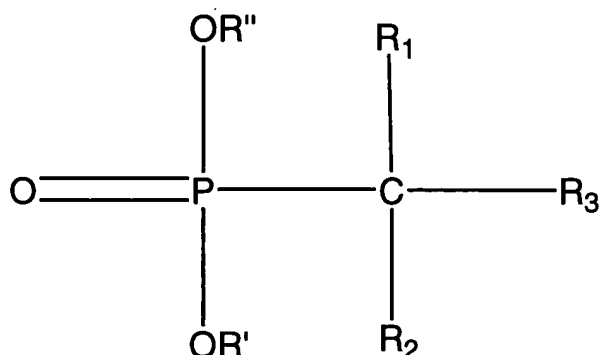
Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A drilling fluid comprising
water as base component;
a viscosifying agent to increase the viscosity of the fluid;
a filtrate reducing agent;
a weighting agent to adjust the density of the fluid;
a shale swelling inhibition agent comprising phosphate or silicate based compounds; and
an additive for a drilling fluid, consisting of a compound in accordance with the formula



wherein R, R' and R'' are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms.

Claim 10 (Original): The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein R, R' and R'' are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C or O.

Claim 11 (Original): The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the additive consists of a compound in accordance with the formula



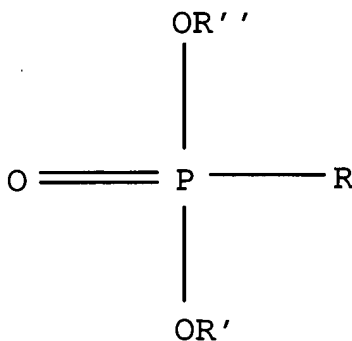
wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms.

Claim 12 (Original): The drilling fluid of claim 11, wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C or O.

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A method of preventing accretion of cuttings in a borehole, said method comprising the step of preparing a drilling fluid comprising a viscosifying agent to increase the viscosity of the fluid, a filtrate reducing agent, a weighting agent to adjust the density of the fluid, a shale swelling inhibition agent comprising phosphate or silicate based compounds and an additive for a drilling fluid, consisting of a compound in accordance with the formula



wherein R, R' and R'' are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the additive is added in a concentration of up to about 10% weight by volume of the drilling fluid.

Claims 17-25: (Cancelled)

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the additive is based on a phosphor derivative of the succinic acid.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the additive is based on a short phosphorylated hydrocarbon.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 9, comprising the additive in a concentration of up to about 10% weight by volume.

Claim 29 (Cancelled)

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the shale swelling inhibition agent comprises phosphate based compounds.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the shale swelling inhibition agent comprises silicate based compounds.